

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2752
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 5414

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, MASS, MARR, TU, CY
SUBJECT: TURKISH REACTION TO SENATE ACTION ON ARMS EMBARGO

REF: (A) ANKARA 5401, (B) ANKARA 5357

1. AS EVIDENT IN REF A, TURKISH MEDIA HAS INTERPRETED SENATE ACTION ON THE EMBARGO AS A "CONDITIONAL" REPEAL. EMBASSY WAS INITIALLY CONCERNED THAT ABDI IPEKCI'S ARTICLE IN "MILLIYET" MAY HAVE BEEN SYMPTOMATIC OF A KNEE JERK REACTION THAT COULD HAVE BEEN SHARED BY SOME GOT OFFICIALS. FOR EXAMPLE, AN AIDE TO FONMIN TOLD US THAT OKCUN HAD REACTED VERY NEGATIVELY TO THE BYRD AMENDMENT REPEATING THE SAME COMPLAINTS HE HAD MADE TO THE CHARGE WITH RESPECT TO THE PROPOSED MCGOVERN AMENDMENT (REF B). CHARGE TELEPHONED MFA SECRETARY GENERAL ELEKDAG THE MORNING OF JULY 26 AND TO HIS OPENING GAMBIT OF "HOW ARE YOU?", ELEKDAG REPLIED TERSELY, "DISCONCERTED". IN COURSE OF ENSUING CONVERSATION CHARGE MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

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- A. THE SENATE ACTION LIFTS THE EMBARGO UNCONDITIONALLY.
- B. THE ONLY "CONDITIONS" ARE THOSE IMPOSED ON THE PRESIDENT.
- C. THE PRESIDENT IS REQUIRED TO SUBMIT PROGRESS REPORTS ON CYPRUS SETTLEMENT NOT JUST AS THEY RELATE TO TURKISH ACTIONS BUT ALSO WITH RESPECT TO GREECE AND CYPRUS AS WELL.

D. ADMINISTRATION WOULD HAVE PREFERRED A CLEAN LIFTING OF EMBARGO BUT IF BYRD AMENDMENT WAS NECESSARY TO ASSURE PASSAGE, IT IS NOT A HEAVY PRICE TO PAY.

BY THE END OF THIS SHORT TELEPHONE CONVERSATION ELEKDAG APPEARED TO APPRECIATE THRUST OF CHARGE'S POINTS AND SAID HE WOULD WANT TO SEE CHARGE LATER IN THE DAY.

2. IN AN EFFORT TO BUILD A BACK FIRE TO ANY POSSIBLE NEGATIVE REACTIONS EITHER IN THE GOT OR THE PRESS, EMBOFFS REPEATED POINTS MADE BY CHARGE TO ELEKDAG TO A WIDE RANGE OF MFA WORKING LEVEL OFFICERS (E.G., GREEK-CYPRUS DESK OFFICER, BATU) AND TURKISH MEDIA (INCLUDING IPEKCI). IN ADDITION, CHIEF JUSMMAT IS SEEKING AN APPOINTMENT TO REVIEW THE SUBSTANCE OF THE BYRD AMENDMENT WITH GENERAL CELASUN, DEPUTY CHIEF TURKISH GENERAL STAFF.

3. THESE CONTACTS SEEM TO HAVE GIVEN OUR INTERLOCUTORS SOME USEFUL PERSPECTIVES ON THE SENATE ACTION. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE PRIME MINISTER WILL MAKE A STATEMENT ON THE EMBARGO VOTE AND THAT THE CHARGE WILL BE CALLED INTO SEE EITHER ELEKDAG OR THE FOREIGN MINISTER IN THE EARLY EVENING (JULY 26). WE WILL REPORT FURTHER REACTION SEPTELS.

4. WE NOTE THAT OUR MOST EFFECTIVE ARGUMENT HAS BEEN THAT THE SENATE ACTION UNCONDITIONALLY LIFTS THE EMBARGO. IF THE SAWYER
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AMENDMENT WHICH MAKES THE PRISONER EXCHANGE TREATY A CONDITION FOR LIFTING THE EMBARGO IS ENACTED IN THE HOUSE, WE WILL LOSE THIS VALUABLE POINT AND THE TURKS WILL BE FORCED TO SPEAK TO THIS LINKAGE. GOT REACTION WOULD DOUBTLESSLY BE EXTREMELY NEGATIVE.
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